

neck white, with a yellowish tint toward the shoulders. This is the permanent plumage of the oldest birds. During the moult occur transitions between the different phases of coloring.

DESCRIPTION OF A SUPPOSED NEW *MYRMECIZA*.

BY GEORGE K. CHERRIE.

THERE are in the collection of the Museo Nacional twenty specimens referable to the genus *Myrmeciza*. Thirteen of these come from the eastern side of the great mountain range, and seven from the Pacific lowlands. The form from the Pacific side I suppose to be new. However, without either works of reference or authentically identified specimens, I can feel no certainty about which form really is *M. immaculata*. I do not even know from what locality the type specimen of *immaculata* came. My supposition that the Pacific form is the new one is based on Mr. Ridgway's note under *Myrmeciza immaculata* in a paper "On a collection of birds from the Hacienda la Palma, Gulf of Nicoya, Costa Rica," by C. C. Nutting. (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. V, 1882, p. 398.) Mr. Ridgway says: "The female from La Palma is referred doubtfully to this species. It differs markedly from three other Costa Rican specimens, from the Atlantic coast, in having the jugulum and breast bright chestnut instead of dull chestnut brown, but I am unable to detect any other differences."

With the small series of specimens I have before me, other slight differences are discernible in coloration, besides a decided difference in size, as will be shown in the following descriptions and tables of measurements.

In case the western form may prove to be new, I would suggest the name *occidentalis*,* and characterize the form as follows:

Myrmeciza immaculata occidentalis subsp. nov.

Male (No. 1352, Museo Nacional, Pozo Azul, January, 1887, José C. Zelédón).—Above: whole head slate-black; back, a rather dark vandyke brown, the wings and tail with a more dusky shading. Below: throat

* I employ the name *occidentalis*, at the suggestion of Mr. José C. Zelédón, as indicative of the locality.

and breast slate-black, changing gradually posteriorly to slate-gray on the abdomen; flanks and under tail-coverts vandyke brown, the latter much the brighter; under wing-coverts brownish slate-gray; bend of wing white. "Bare orbital skin, cobalt-blue; iris, chestnut"; bill black. The feathers of the crown are somewhat elongated, but not in the form of a crest. The wings are short and rounded; the first primary is the shortest; the third is about equal to the eighth; the fourth, fifth and sixth are the longest.

Female (No. 1351, Museo Nacional, Pozo Azul, January, 1887, José C. Zelédón).—Above: head slate-black with a shading of vandyke brown commencing on the crown and deepening posteriorly to the cervix where the blackish color entirely disappears, giving place to the rich vandyke brown of the back; wings, rump and upper tail-coverts a little brighter; tail slightly darker. Below: auriculars slate color; chin and throat slate-gray with a slight shading of chestnut from the jugulum; jugulum bright chestnut, changing into hazel brown on the breast; sides of breast, sides, flanks, and under tail-coverts vandyke brown, darkest on the sides of the breast, and brightest on the under tail-coverts; under wing-coverts grayish vandyke brown. "Bare orbital skin, cobalt blue; iris, chestnut." The label of another female (No. 3308) reads: "Upper mandible black; lower, blackish; feet and legs plumbeous; iris, brown." The remaining five examples show considerable individual variation in color. All are a trifle darker on the back, but present an unbroken series of variations. Below, in Nos. 1350, 3308, and 4592, there is only a trace of hazel on the breast, the vandyke brown of the sides taking its place. In Nos. 635 and 4590 the hazel of the breast is replaced by chestnut from the jugulum.

Specimens from the Atlantic side may be compared with those from the Pacific side, and described, as follows:

Male (No. 3419, Museo Nacional, Jiminez, August 16, 1889, A. Alfaro) similar to the male described as coming from the Pacific side, differing principally in the relative proportions; however, the back seems a trifle darker; also the head a shade blacker; but with only the single specimen from the Pacific side it is impossible to say whether these differences are constant or not.

Female (No. 3415, Museo Nacional, Jiminez, August 8, 1889, A. Alfaro), above, similar to the females from the Pacific side, but with the head and back a trifle darker. Below, chin and throat a blackish slate; rest of underparts dark vandyke brown, as dark as the sides of the breast of the Pacific form. (Perhaps the color of the underparts would be better described as dark sepia brown.)

A young male (No. 3417, Museo Nacional, Jiminez, August 16, 1889, A. Alfaro) resembles most the female. The head, however, is vandyke brown like the back, only the bases of the feathers being blackish. The wings are blackish, being edged only with the color of the back. Tail blackish, indistinctly barred with narrow white bands, showing most from below. Below, chin and throat slate-gray, heavily washed with the color of the breast, which is somewhat lighter than in the adult bird. Under tail-coverts barred with from two to three black bands.

MEASUREMENTS (in inches).

M. immaculata occidentalis

				Wing	Tail	Tail feathers	Exposed culmen	Tarsus	
♀	635	A. Alfaro	Trojas	Feb., 1886	2.58	2.15	1.75	.77	1.10
♀	1350	J. C. Zelédon	Pozo Azul	Jan., 1887	2.68	2.15	1.81	—	1.03
♀	1351	"	"	"	2.66	2.13	1.84	.73	1.11
♀	3308	"	"	Sept. 13, 1889	2.62	2.22	1.94	.69	1.05
♀	4590	C. F. Underwood	Bebedero	Feb. 15, 1890	2.56	2.25	1.95	.77	1.05
♀	4592	"	"	Feb. 22, 1890	2.59	2.26	1.90	.82	1.06
♂	1352	J. C. Zelédon	Pozo Azul	Jan., 1887	2.72	2.26	1.95	.80	1.13
Average of the six females				.	2.61	2.19	1.86	.76	1.05
Minimum				.	2.56	2.13	1.75	.69	1.03
Maximum				.	2.68	2.26	1.95	.82	1.11

M. immaculata.

					Wing	Tail	Tail feathers	Exposed culmen	Nostril to tip of bill	Tarsus
♀	634	A. Alfaro	Jimenez	April, 1886	2.70	2.05	1.83	.75	.47	1.12
	3415	"	"	Aug. 8, 1889	2.62	1.96	1.70	.76	.49	1.10
	3416	"	"	Aug. 6, 1889	2.50	2.03	1.80	.70	.45	1.10
	3659	C.F. Underwood	Carrillo	Aug. 18, 1889	2.45	2.05	1.80	.74	.47	1.06
	4762	A. and C.	Jimenez	Dec. 22, 1889	2.64	2.17	1.84	.76	.45	1.02
	4763	A. and C.	"	Dec. 23, 1889	2.50	2.07	1.78	.73	.46	1.03
♂	1353	Juan Cooper	Pacuare	1876	2.60	2.15	1.80	.75	.49	1.07
	3418	A. Alfaro	Jimenez	Aug. 7, 1889	2.60	2.15	1.90	.65	.43	1.12
	3419	"	"	Aug. 16, 1889	2.66	2.08	1.85	.76	.47	1.12
	3420	"	"	Aug. 22, 1889	2.58	2.16	1.88	.76	.49	1.13
	3421	"	"	Aug. 16, 1889	2.53	2.15	1.86	.71	.46	1.05
	3660	C F. Underwood	Carrillo	Aug. 18, 1889	2.67	2.04	1.76	.77	.48	1.05
Average					2.59	2.09	1.82	.74	.47	1.08
Average of six females					2.56	2.05	1.79	.74	.46	1.07
Average of six males					2.60	2.12	1.84	.73	.47	1.09
Minimum of females					2.45	1.96	1.70	.70	.45	1.02
Maximum of females					2.70	2.17	1.84	.76	.49	1.10

The males of the eastern form are shown by these measurements to be larger than females from corresponding localities, but smaller than females of the western bird. The single male from the Pacific side is larger than any of the males from the Atlantic side.